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CIA Changes Inevitable

Undoubtedly the super-secret U.S. Central Intelligence Agency is about to be overhauled. Whether it will be a radical overhaul, complete with new leadership, the months ahead will reveal. Moves thus far announced are regarded in Washington as merely tentative.

There is a groundswell of criticism of U.S. intelligence failures in important international events which cannot be styled short of an obvious improvement in intelligence capabilities.

Through the years, the CIA has been able to cloak its inefficiency from all eyes but those of the President. Congress does not know how much of the executive branch budget is allocated to CIA, or what the agency spends it for. There is no accounting of funds or activities except to the President.

Secrecy is a paramount requisite of the operation of any intelligence system, but it does not permit evaluation of the success

or failure of the overall intelligence program. Within the year, three glaring failures directly attributable to the CIA have made serious dents in American prestige. These were the U-2 plane fiasco, the tragedy of Cuba—which appears to have been consistently misinterpreted by the CIA, from the revolution of two years ago to the disastrous counter-revolutionary invasion—and the embarrassing complaints from Paris that CIA officials were in constant communication with the Algerian rebels during the brief threat to De Gaulle's rule.

Intelligence is one of the more important factors in the free world maneuvers to keep the cancer of communism from spreading beyond its present borders. Bad judgment predicated on poor information has produced extreme embarrassments which could evolve into cold war defeats if not quickly corrected.

The above editorial also appeared

in the following other newspaper : CAPE GIRARDEAU SOUTHEAST

MISSOURIAN, MO.

- MAY 9, 1961

AUGUSTA KENNEBEC JOURNAL

MAINE

- MAY 11, 1961

SAN MATEO TIMES, CALIF.

- MAY 9, 1961